



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: May 21, 2007
Week Ending: May 20, 2007
CWP WA-CW2107

Cooler Temperatures Prevailed Over Much of the State First Cutting of Alfalfa Continues Rain Needed for Wheat

Field Crops

There were 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork. Drier weather made good harvesting conditions for the first cutting of alfalfa with reports of good quality hay being harvested. Winter wheat was well into the boot stage but grain growers were in need of rain to bring crops along. Much spraying activity reported on newly seeded spring crops when winds tapered down. Pea and sweet corn growers prepared fields for planting and dairy producers were planting silage corn. Potato plants were blooming in some areas while other areas were finishing planting. Christmas trees were laying down new growth and growers continued to apply fungicide and insecticide sprays.

Fruits and Vegetables

Sweet cherries were showing a little yellow color and growers were applying the first cover sprays to protect the crop from cherry fruit fly. Some fruit growers have reported some losses of their apple crop due to freezing temperatures and poor pollination because of the cold. Greenhouse tomato growers reported prolific bloom on plants and home gardeners focused on planting warm season vegetable crops and tomato transplants. Blueberry, raspberry and strawberry bloom continued with Skagit County fresh strawberries expected to be a week or two away from harvest.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 1% very poor, 2% poor, 17% fair, 75% good and 5% excellent. Most cattle were reported to be on pasture with some reports of pasture growth getting ahead of livestock.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.1
Last Week	6.9

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	7	20	69	4
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	2	18	75	5
Subsoil	6	23	69	2
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	4	22	72	2
Irrigation Water	1	0	97	2
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	5	93	1
Hay & Roughage	12	22	64	2

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2006	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	100	99	99	99
Spring Wheat Emerged	97	87	77	90
Winter Wheat Headed	19	6	22	20
Barley Planted	100	98	96	99
Barley Emerged	92	80	70	87
Potatoes Planted	93	83	96	99
Potatoes Emerged	82	53	73	70
Corn Planted	92	72	86	84
Corn Emerged	70	58	54	41
Dry Edible Beans Planted	96	95	81	65
Proc. Green Peas Planted	92	82	99	93
Dry Peas Planted	99	98	98	96
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	34	15	24	23

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	6	33	50	9
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	1	3	76	20
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	6	44	47	3
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	7	86	7
Barley Dryland	0	2	40	55	3
Barley Irrigated	0	6	11	77	6
Potatoes	0	0	27	73	0
Corn	0	0	24	69	7
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	42	58	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Rain arrived at the end of the week just in time to alleviate concerns over the lack of soil moisture. Both pea and sweet corn growers were working long days in order to get fields prepared and planted. Commercial peony growers reported that the bloom date this year is almost two weeks behind most years. Greenhouse tomato growers reported prolific bloom on plants. Christmas tree growers continued applying fungicide and insecticide sprays. Dairy producers were planting silage corn. Home gardeners focused on planting warm season vegetable crops and tomato transplants.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: After ten days without rain, showers over the weekend have brought spring activities to a halt.

Island/San Juan/Skagit: Climate has been dry and cool.

Mason: Dry, warm and windy all week. The soil has dried and hardened considerably and until Sunday morning we had no measurable precipitation. A change in the weather started Saturday with light rain which yielded about 0.2 inches of much needed moisture.

Pierce/S. King: It has been a little dry in the area but rain over the weekend really helped a lot. Overall crop conditions remained good. No unusual activities to report or any crop damage due to a weather event.

Skagit: High temperatures for the week averaged 63 degrees. There was seven inches of precipitation recorded at the WSU North West Research and Extension Center in West Mount Vernon. Cow corn was almost completely in the ground in the Skagit Valley. Potato farmers in the valley have about 60 percent of this year's in the ground. This year's pea planting was about half way complete. Also, fresh

Skagit Valley Strawberries are about a week or two away. With 0.07 of an inch of rain this week in the delta it was going to take a little bit of time to dry out and will delay planting for a day or so.

Snohomish/King: A nice week for fieldwork ended with heavy rain. Disking and planting continued. Some fields of early sweet corn have emerged. Potato planting was underway. Blueberry bloom continued and strawberries were in full bloom. Raspberry bloom was beginning. Pasture growth was excellent. Grass silage was bagged. Christmas trees were putting on new growth.

Thurston: Ag producers expressed concern over unseasonably dry conditions. Turf grass growers were forced to begin irrigating to compensate for the lack of soil moisture. Rain finally arrived over the weekend along with cooler temperatures which helped to alleviate the dry conditions. Blueberry growers continued to apply fungicide and insecticide sprays. Christmas tree growers were monitoring fields for insects and continued applying fungicides for the prevention of Swiss Needle cast. Livestock producers took advantage of nearly ideal conditions to continue harvesting haylage. Retail nurseries and garden stores reported excellent sales of both annual bedding plants and vegetable transplants.

Thurston (2nd Report): Cold weather led to poor grass growth.

Whatcom: With five days of great weather, producers were able to plant the majority of their crops for the year. Saturday and Sunday brought approximately 0.75 of an inch of rain, a welcome for home gardeners and producers alike. Earlier planted potatoes and corn have emerged. Fall planted seed crops were at the blooming stage.

Central

Benton: Rains hurt some first cuttings of alfalfa. A considerable amount of alfalfa was harvested before the rain. Some later maturing alfalfa cutting will be delayed.

Benton (2nd Report): Weather conditions for the week were mostly warm temperatures and dry. Some reports of poor pollination for orchard trees. Field corn looked excellent due to warm weather. Spraying for rust in dry land winter wheat was halted as most acreage was sprayed.

Chelan/Douglas: Cool temperatures (down as low as 22 degrees in some areas) and windy conditions have continued. Some fruit growers have reported up to 30 percent losses of their apple crop, due to freezing temperatures and poor pollinating because of the cold. Cherry production was also down due to this condition. Winter wheat was in fairly good condition, but still behind normal maturity due to cool temperatures. Cheat and goat grasses seemed to be more prevalent this year in the winter wheat, requiring additional chemical operations. Livestock producers were releasing cattle into spring pastures.

Franklin: This was a busy week in the field for most farm operations. A third of the alfalfa hay crop first cutting was

harvested in all the various stages (cutting, raking, baling and stacking). Wheat was beginning to head. Beans were beginning to be planted, though it's expected there will be less acreage this year in lieu of other higher crop prices. Some triticale was being silaged. Potato plants were blooming in much of the county and looking good. The last of the field corn was being planted and sweet corn was being planted in places where old alfalfa hay or another early silage crop or green peas had been early harvested and removed. Weather for the most part was normal with one minor thunder storm coming in Friday night reportedly bringing a short-lived hail event (small size) with lightening and rain sporadically throughout the county.

Grant: Excellent conditions for first crop alfalfa.

Klickitat: Unseasonably cool weather at the end of the week, including rain in many areas of the county and snow in higher elevations.

Yakima: Sweet cherries were showing a little yellow color and growers were applying the first cover sprays to protect their crop from cherry fruit fly. Apples were between 10 to 15 millimeters in diameter; fruit thinning continued.

Eastern

Adams: Dry weather persisted as soil moisture condition began to move into very short supply.

Adams (2nd Report): Unsettled weather during the weekend provided spotty precipitation that will help grain crops where it hit. More was needed to improve topsoil moisture conditions. Range was also showing signs of moisture deficiency.

Asotin: Winter wheat looked good in most parts of the county, but significant rainfall will be needed to maintain yield potential. Rainfall was needed in all areas for spring crops and pastures.

Asotin/Garfield: Crops began to show signs of moisture stress as the weather has remained dry with temperatures above normal. Rangeland in the lower elevations, especially in Asotin County, was in poor conditions due to lack of rain in April and May. Growth has been terminated for the growing season in these areas even if rain is received soon. The higher elevations would still benefit from more rain.

Ferry: Some cattle producers were starting to move herds to summer pastures. There have been reports of dry conditions since the county has not received any recent rainfall. Irrigated alfalfa crops looked good at this time.

Garfield: Winter wheat approached boot stage. Stripe rust was evident in susceptible varieties. The Cereal Leaf Beetle in winter wheat was actually completing its life cycle.

Lincoln: Dry weather patterns persisted. Topsoil moisture conditions have become in very short supply and will continue to decline under current weather

patterns. Winter wheat conditions remained but will need additional precipitation to be maintained. Spring crops were planted and emerged and were looking for water.

Pend Orielle/Spokane: Rain was the good word this morning. Parts of the county received some very much needed rain this weekend. As of Monday morning reports of approximately 0.50 an inch of rain was making farmers smile again. Growth of fall wheat and spring crops with the addition of moisture made everything look good. Cattlemen were turning cattle out to summer pasture and the grass looked pretty good. Some spraying of spring crops will start happening if the wind would quit blowing.

Stevens: Field conditions became very dry last week. Alfalfa, pasture, and grain crops could use a good rain. Most of the cattle were out on pasture.

Walla Walla: The first cutting was in full swing with great weather. Grain looked good, but could use more rain. Pasture growth was good. Some getting ahead of livestock.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Crops were looking good, but still needed rain. Much of the winter wheat was heading out. The first cutting of hay was well underway.

Whitman: Conditions remained good to fair but rain will be needed. Crops continued to do well despite the short precipitation totals this spring. Warm but breezy conditions were prevalent most of the week. Lots of spraying of newly seeded spring crops was being done when winds were cooperative.

Weekly Weather Statistics

May 21, 2007

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
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	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
WEST															
Bellingham Intl	37	78	53	-1	25	-1	0	+0	0.43	-0.06	2	32.24	+1.35	104	144
Everett	41	81	55	+1	35	+4	4	+4	0.11	-0.45	2	29.32	-1.64	95	141
Hoquiam	40	76	56	+2	41	+13	4	+4	0.94	+0.24	3	66.28	+4.25	107	163
Kelso	37	82	56	+2	45	+12	3	+3	0.11	-0.45	2	37.94	-3.18	92	123
Olympia	35	85	54	+1	29	+5	1	+1	0.45	+0.00	2	53.48	+7.29	116	147
Seattle-Tacoma	43	85	57	+3	51	+14	7	+7	0.27	-0.09	2	41.20	+7.97	124	136
Shelton	35	84	54	-3	26	-14	1	+1	0.98	+0.48	2	72.66	+12.47	121	154
Tacoma WA AP	37	83	55	-2	35	-3	1	+1	0.47	+0.05	2	37.63	+1.98	106	137
Vancouver WA	37	86	59	+4	63	+27	9	+9	0.28	-0.26	2	35.64	-1.21	97	126
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	32	83	59	+5	66	+28	9	+9	0.00	-0.14	0	7.66	+0.13	102	72
Omak AP	32	82	59	+5	61	+28	9	+9	0.00	-0.35	0	7.57	-3.85	66	53
Stampede Pass	34	67	46	+5	5	+5	0	+0	0.19	-0.58	2	92.51	+18.97	126	157
Wenatchee	41	82	62	+3	83	+19	20	+10	0.00	-0.08	0	7.02	+0.17	102	48
Yakima AP	37	83	59	+3	63	+13	8	+2	0.00	-0.10	0	6.55	-0.11	98	54
NORTHEAST															
Colville	37	86	60	+6	72	+40	14	+14	0.00	-0.48	0	12.12	-4.92	71	89
Deer Park	30	79	56	+2	48	+16	2	+2	0.06	-0.33	2	15.67	+0.53	104	98
Republic	29	80	55	+4	39	+21	1	+1	0.00	-0.35	0	11.59	+0.08	101	66
Spokane AP	42	80	59	+5	67	+36	11	+11	0.11	-0.23	2	12.37	-0.92	93	89
EAST_CENTRAL															
Ephrata	40	85	62	+2	83	+10	23	+9	0.00	-0.14	0	6.20	+0.24	104	60
Moses Lake	36	85	61	+1	79	+6	20	+6	0.00	-0.14	0	5.29	-0.67	89	58
Quincy	41	81	62	+4	86	+25	24	+15	0.00	-0.14	0	6.76	+0.25	104	46
Ritzville	41	83	61	+7	75	+42	17	+17	0.00	-0.21	0	9.37	-0.15	98	74
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	39	88	64	+2	102	+8	35	+8	0.00	-0.14	0	4.05	-1.54	72	45
Pasco	38	87	63	+3	95	+15	28	+9	0.00	-0.14	0	6.45	+0.10	102	66
Pullman	40	79	56	+4	48	+25	0	+0	0.09	-0.26	1	14.56	-2.90	83	95
Walla Walla Rgn	48	87	65	+6	107	+41	41	+30	0.00	-0.35	0	15.92	-0.64	96	84
Whitman Mission	35	86	62	+4	82	+28	22	+15	0.00	-0.28	0	11.43	-0.05	100	87
WESTERN_IDAHO_PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	42	87	65	+7	104	+45	40	+32	0.00	-0.28	0	7.29	-1.93	79	71

Summary based on NWS data.

Season CUMulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2006

DFN = Departure From Normal.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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